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North Dakota Hospital for the Insane reports

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Report of the trustees of the North Dakota Hospital for the Insane, near Jamestown ... 1st (year ending November 30, 1884)

North Dakota Hospital for the Insane, at Jamestown, biennial report, 2nd (December 1, 1886)-3rd (November 30, 1888)

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FIRST REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

NORTH DAKOTA HOSPITAL

FOR THE INSANE,

NEAR JAMESTOWN.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1884.

VALLEY CITY, DAKOTA:
DAILY TIMES STEAM PRINTING HOUSE.
1884.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

NORTH DAKOTA HOSPITAL

FOR THE INSANE.

JAMESTOWN DAKOTA, December 3, 1884.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, GILBERT A. PIERCE,

Governor of Dakota Territory:

SIR: The Trustees of the North Dakota Hospital for the Insane herewith, as required by law, submit their first report, and in so doing would briefly state the difficulties to be contended with in the discharge of the duties imposed upon them.

The act of the Legislature of March 9, 1883, authorizes the issue of bonds to the amount of fifty thousand dollars "to construct a hospital for the insane at or near the city of Jamestown, Dakota Territory," and to provide for the building of the same, the bonds to bear date May 1, 1884.

This act also directs that "the said hospital shall be erected on a piece or parcel of land not less than six hundred and forty acres in extent, to be selected within not to exceed four miles from the court house of Stutsman county, Dakota Territory."

Also "within one year after the passage and approval of this act to prepare or cause to be prepared a plan and specification for a building for a Territorial Hospital."

Also "within twenty days thereafter to give at least thirty days notice in two newspapers published in the Territory, and in two newspapers published in the state of Minnesota," etc., as set forth in section 8, of said act.

Also, by section 10 of said act, "to award the contract for erecting said building, after the bids and proposals have been opened."

It thus appears that the Trustees were obliged to procure plans and specifications, advertise for proposals for building, and make a contract for erecting said Hospital, and also buy the land on which to place the building all before the funds, authorized to be appropriated, were raised or in any way certainly provided for.

The Trustees received their commissions in the latter part of May, 1883, and as soon thereafter as possible, met at Jamestown, were duly sworn into office, and organized for business.

As the appropriation act included the purchase of the land, and there being no school section within the four mile limit, the Trustees first devoted their attention to procuring a suitable location, a difficult matter to do under the limitation of the act, without encroaching too much upon the building fund.

The land for the hospital near Yankton was set apart by the Territory for that purpose under grant from the United States government.

In response to advertisements for locations, fourteen proposals were received, the lands described therein varying in distance from the said court house from one to five miles, and in price from fifteen to thirty dollars per acre. After duly considering these proposals and carefully visiting and inspecting the lands described, the present location was selected. This tract of land lies south of the city of Jamestown, part of it within one mile of the said court house; it is pleasantly diversified, about forty acres lying on the west bank and first level of the James river, and which is now valued at one hundred dollars per acre. This portion is admirably

adapted for market gardening. Upon this part of the farm is situated a good farm house, nearly new, and which cost about twenty-six hundred dollars, with a good well of water close by. Upon the bluff, from which is an extensive view of the Valley of the James and overlooking the city of Jamestown, the present hospital is situated. About five hundred acres around this building are suitable for cultivation, and two hundred and forty acres are already plowed. On the east line, the ground, running toward the river, is broken, affording excellent pasturage. On part of this is a quantity of excellent building stone, probably sufficient for the foundations of ten more buildings. The value of this is shown by the fact that by its use a saving of one thousand dollars was made in the amount of the first building contract. The consideration paid for the whole tract is twenty thousand dollars. As the funds for the purchase of the land would not be available until after May 1, 1884, the Trustees made a personal contract with Mr. J. J. Flint for the property, fearing that in another year so large a body of land in so favorable a location might not be available at the same price.

The trustees are well aware that the amount paid for the land seems large in comparison with the appropriation, but they looked more to the future than the present needs and interests of the institution, which would seem to justify them in their action, and although censured at the time by parties having less desirable property (and of course at a lesser price) for sale, yet already the general verdict of the people is, that the location selected is the best to be found within the limit and at the price paid.

By the Dakota Hospital act the Trustees are directed to elect a superintendent who shall be consulted in selection of plans for the building, and its location.

From the different applications made for the office, the Trustees selected Dr. O. W. Archibald, at present acting as assistant surgeon in the U. S. Army, and stationed at Fort A. Lincoln. From his recommendations,

and from the fact that he has had experience in the required work in the state of Iowa, and from his having a peculiar liking for this branch of his profession, the Trustees think they are fortunate in securing his services. There being no provision made for the payment of the services of Superintendent, he was elected with the understanding that he should assume the active duties of his office as soon as the Legislature should make appropriation for the running expenses of the Hospital; until that time the Trustees performed his duties as specified in the act.

The Trustees have carefully complied with all the requirements, conditions and instructions in regard to advertisements for plans and specifications, contracts for building, &c., as required by the act of March 9, 1883.

From among the plans presented for their selection. that of Willett & Pashley, architects, of Chicago, was chosen; who were afterwards appointed architects and superintendents of construction.

From the alternative designs made out by them the Trustees adopted that known as the segregate or detached kind, which embraces in its general plan many buildings of different kinds, such as receiving wards, close wards, kitchen, laundry, officers' residence, and many others, to be built from time to time as the necessities of the institution require, and the funds appropriated will permit. This plan, which was approved by the Governor and the Superintendent, has the merit of being readily enlarged, more so than the other or congregate plan; it is more elastic, and therefore better adapted to the wants of a new and rapidly growing territory.

The first building erected by the Trustees is called the Receiving Ward West. It is built of brick with a slate roof, two stories high, with a commodious stone basement, and is as nearly fire proof as could be made from the funds at command. We believe the building will bear a critical examination, and will compare favorably in regard to cost and workmanship with any other

public building in the Territory. It is heated by furnaces in connection with a system of ventilation, known as the "Ruttan Heating and Ventilating System." So far as tried it is perfect in its operation, and danger from fire seems to be reduced to a minimum. The building is piped for gas, is furnished with a large kitchen range, iron bedsteads, chairs, tables and settees to the extent of the money on hand, though not entirely ready for immediate occupation.

A well was sunk near this building and good water in plentiful supply was found at a depth of ninety-two feet.

Accompanying this report is a detailed statement of the receipts from the sale of the bonds voted by the Legislature, and the expenditures of the same. The item of Trustees expenses is largely increased by the distance to be traveled by Mr. Pierce from Castlewood, in the southeastern corner of the Territory, in coming to the meetings of the board. His attendance was only required when deemed imperatively necessary that the whole board should be represented.

The Trustees hope that an inspection of the work done by them may be made as early in the session as possible by yourself and a committee of the Legislature, after which, they feel confident there will be no hesitation on the part of the latter to advise the appropriation of a sum sufficient to complete the proper furnishing of the building, and to provide for the running expenses of the Hospital for the next two years.

By law the North Dakota Hospital is obliged to receive and support all insane persons living north of the 46th parallel. Already these patients amount to seventy-five or eighty in number, and are being treated at the hospital near Yankton.

Section 17 of the act of March 9, 1883, directs, inter-alia, that all patients belonging to said northern district under treatment at the Dakota Hospital for the Insane, at the time said North Dakota Hospital shall be ready

for patients as aforesaid, shall be transferred to said North Dakota Hospital at the expense of the last named institution.

It may not be advisable or proper to transfer these patients so far in the midst of a severe winter, still, if such removal be imperative, preparations should be made to receive them.

The present building, called the Receiving Ward West, is not sufficient to accommodate even the number of patients now waiting to be transferred to its shelter, and the daily increase of the insane in the Territory demands larger accommodations as soon as they can be provided.

In view of such necessity, the Trustees have caused further plans and estimates of other necessary buildings to be made by the architects, Messrs. Willett & Pashley. These would seem to be the least of the absolute requirements, and are as follows:

Ward buildings, (Receiving Ward East, and Close Ward) $51,000. Section of office building, $9,000. Section of Kitchen building, bakery and general dining room, $10,000. Officers' residence, $9,000. Laundry, etc., $6,000. Boiler house, $6,000. Sewerage, $2,000. Water supply, $4,000. Gas, $2,000. Barn for Hospital farm, $4,000.

The most important of the above, the Ward buildings, could be built and completed for occupancy by the 1st of July, 1885, provided, of course, that appropriation be made therefor.

In submitting the following estimates of appropriations for defraying the current expenses of this Hospital for the two years ending November 30, 1886, the Trustees have based them mainly on the same number of patients to be admitted during that time, as compared with the increase of the last two years, as shown in the last report of the Dakota Hospital; also considering that starting an institution of this kind is necessarily more expensive than its comparative cost when in successful and complete operation, and also bearing in

mind the increased cost of everything so much farther west, and also remembering that the increase of the insane is in a greater ratio than the increase of the population.

These estimates amount in the aggregate to less, with about the same number of patients, than the amount appropriated for similar purposes, to the Dakota Hospital in February, 1883, and are as follows:

For the maintenance of patients, and for their necessary clothing, and for the board of the employes and officers residing in the Hospital, the sum of $22,000. For the necessary wages of employes, the sum of $12,000. For the necessary fuel and lights, $4,000. For the necessary incidental expenses, $2,000. For the necessary drugs, medicines, medical books, miscellaneous periodicals, and amusements for patients, $3,000. For the necessary repairs and improvements for such Hospital, $2,500. For the necessary improvements of the Hospital farm, $3,000. For improvements of Hospital grounds, fencing, etc., $1,000. For the necessary fixtures, machinery and furniture, cisterns, etc., $10,000. For stocking the farm with horses, mules, cattle, hogs and fowls, and seeds of all kinds, $2,000. For farm implements, including wagons, harness, garden and farm tools, plows, hay and root cutters, harvesting machinery, etc., $2,000.

It will also be necessary to provide specially for the funds to pay the transportation of the patients from Yankton to Jamestown, the cost of which will be at least $2,000, unless a special rate of fare can be obtained from the railroads.

It is unnecessary to weary your excellency with further reasons for asking for immediate and liberal appropriations to meet the coming wants of this institution, without it is well to say that it is considered best for the males and females to be cared for in separate buildings. Until those are provided, they must necessarily be together.

The Trustees will be prepared to explain in detail the expenditures asked for, before a committee of the Legislature at the proper time.

The above general plan of building has been adopted by the Legislature of the state of Iowa, and at Kankakee, in the state of Illinois, at which latter place Mr. Willett is the supervising architect. So that through him the Trustees have the advantage of knowing the latest improvements in every thing pertaining to insane hospitals.

STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS OF FUNDS RECEIVED FROM SALE OF BONDS.

Amount of bonds issued	m$ 50,000.00	
Less discount on sale of same	250.00	
	$49,750.00	
Paid for 640 acres of land, including farm hou e		$20,000.00
Paid for Hospital building, including architect's expenses and gas piping		24,150.19
Paid for heating and ventilating apparatus and kitchen range		2,230.04
Paid for Trustees' and Dr. Archibald's expenses attending meetings of Board and mileage, as per law, since May, 1883		1,238.00
Paid for surveying and platting grounds, running levels for buildings, lines of sewers, etc., as ordered by architect		455.00
Paid for fall plowing 84 acres, and grading about building		206.80
Paid for digging and curbing well 92 feet, and pump		273.31
Paid for insur nce for one year, ($15,000)		149.99
Paid for livery since May, 1883		77.50
Paid for advertising, record books, stationery, printing and seal, copy book and press		152.06
Paid for coal for Hospital, table, hardware, legal expenses, office rent, postage and telegrams, freight, window shades, lamp, oil, etc		204.66
		$49,137.55
Amount in Territorial Treasury to credit of Hospital Fund, Nov. 30, 1884		612.45
Vouchers in detail for the above are on file in the Auditor's office		$ 49,750.00

Respectfully Submitted,

M. G. CUSHING,
L. LYON,
M. E. FOLEY,
F. E. JONES,
GEORGE W. PIERCE,

Trustees of the North Dakota Hospital for the Insane.